

HONORING NICHOLAS AIELLO FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the members of the Central Labor Council of New Haven, Connecticut as they raise a toast and salute a very special member of Connecticut's labor movement, and my dear friend, Nicholas Aiello. One of the first organizers in the City of New Haven, Nick has long been a strong voice on behalf of working families and is known to many as one of the architects of Connecticut's labor movement.

One of fourteen children, all of whom were garment workers in New Haven's shirt factories, Nick was no stranger to hard work, low pay, and less than ideal working conditions. As Nick recounts in Anthony Riccio's *The Italian Experience in New Haven: Images and Oral Histories*, "When New York got completely organized, the 'runaway shops' came to New Haven. They ran to New Haven where there were no union shops. And they would open up a storefront. They'd put twenty, thirty machines on the fourth floor and most of the stitching plants were on the fourth floor with no elevator. Conditions were horrible . . . Then in the 1930s came the Amalgamated and they started organizing drives in the area." It was with Amalgamated that Nick began as an organizer, taking to the streets of New Haven, rallying workers, and demanding better from industry management. He would go on to become a business agent for Amalgamated and still today remains involved with the Central Labor Council of New Haven. Nick is a pillar of Connecticut's labor movement and has earned the respect and admiration of labor and community leaders alike.

Much has changed from Nick's days in the factories, however, he wanted to make sure that future generations understood the battles that were undertaken to ensure the rights of America's workers. A few years ago, Nick spearheaded the Greater New Haven Labor History Project—an organization whose mission was to collect, preserve, and share the history of working people in the Greater New Haven Area. Nick was determined to see this project succeed and, like in his early organizing days, went door to door to garner support. The response was extraordinary and today its members and staff create traveling exhibits and install them in community venues; preserve and maintain an archival repository of individuals' papers and local union records, documents and artifacts of historical significance; organize public events such as workshops, walking tours, book-signings, film festivals, and talks by esteemed labor historians; offer Records Inventory Services and access by appointment to many of their historical archives; as well as conduct projects such as oral history interviews with retired workers. In addition, the group also presents the August Lewis Troup Award annually to individuals in recognition of their personal contributions to the labor community. None of this would have been possible without Nick's persistence and unyielding determination to see it become a reality and he continues in his efforts by serv-

ing as the President of the Greater New Haven Labor History Project Association.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a personal note of thanks to Nick for his many years of friendship and support. He has been in my corner from the very beginning and even today he still volunteers some of his time in my District Office. I could not be more appreciative of all of his good work on my behalf.

For his many contributions to our community and particularly for his invaluable efforts with the Connecticut labor movement, I am proud to join the members of the Central Labor Council of New Haven in extending my heartfelt thanks to Nicholas Aiello. I extend my very best wishes to Nick and his son, Michael, for many more years of health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING AL AND CHRIS
BELILACQUA ON THEIR INDUC-
TION INTO THE NATIONAL WRES-
TLING HALL OF FAME

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of 2012 National Wrestling Hall of Fame inductees Al and Chris Bevilacqua—the first father and son to be so honored in the same year.

For nearly a half century, Al Bevilacqua has worked tirelessly to advance the sport of wrestling as a coach, organizer, mentor, and teacher. Named USA Wrestling's Coach of the Year in 1983, Al has managed successful programs at the high school and college levels, including two years at Division I Hofstra University. Al's greatest contribution to the sport, however, may be his role as co-founder of Beat the Streets, a New York City-based wrestling program that promotes the values of hard work, dedication, and self-discipline among the area's youths. He will receive the Hall of Fame's Order of Merit for his many contributions to the sport.

A two-time All-American at Pennsylvania State University, Chris Bevilacqua has continued his father's legacy of athletic excellence and community involvement. A fixture in the sports media industry, Chris helped found CSTV, the first 24-hour cable network dedicated to college and amateur athletics, which was sold to CBS in 2005. Chris currently serves as CEO of the Bevilacqua Media Company, a strategic advisor to media and entertainment interests. He will receive the Hall's Outstanding American Award.

Al, Chris, and their fellow honorees will be recognized in June during the Hall's induction ceremony in Stillwater, Oklahoma. I congratulate them and join their family and friends in celebrating their many contributions to the wrestling community.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my position on H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act.

My vote in support of H.R. 1254 is not without reservations. I support this legislation because the health and safety of our citizens is my primary concern. This legislation will protect our communities, and particularly our youth, from more than forty new and dangerous synthetic drugs. These substances have been the cause of violent incidents and numerous deaths around the nation and it is preferable to immediately list them as Schedule I as opposed to allowing them to continue to be abused in our communities.

Criminalizing these substances, however, will not solve the root problem of drug abuse in our communities. I have serious concerns about the over-criminalization of drugs. Mandatory minimum sentences lead to over-capacity criminal justice and prison systems at significant burden to taxpayers. I have long advocated for a comprehensive approach to drug abuse treatment, including education, prevention, treatment, research, and enforcement. In fact, I have authored legislation to expand accessible treatment, especially for underserved communities, and research into cutting edge treatment therapies. Responsible law enforcement is just the way to address this issue, and it must be executed in conjunction with a robust and multifaceted approach that targets the root of drug abuse problems.

I also have concerns about the impact of penalties in H.R. 1254 on our scientific research processes. While, it is regrettable that H.R. 1254 circumvents the process for listing drugs as laid out in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), it is necessary in this circumstance. The evidentiary procedure in CSA has worked well for determining the listing of new substances. Unfortunately, it can be time-intensive and the law enforcement community, including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Department of Justice, supports the immediate listing of these synthetic drugs because of the harm they inflict on our communities. This bill increases the length of time that a new substance can be temporarily scheduled by the DEA, thereby allowing more time for the usual CSA listing process to be carried out.

Throughout my career I have supported scientific research. The study of synthetic drugs is important for understanding their impact on health and their potential beneficial uses. Unfortunately, most of the substances included in this legislation have not been subjected to extensive scientific study, and I am concerned that listing them as Schedule I drugs may inhibit the study of these drugs. While the DEA has a procedure for scientists to study Schedule I controlled substances, it presents greater barriers for scientists to work with these drugs. As of October 4, 2011, the DEA has 325 researchers conducting research with Schedule I controlled substances. These researchers include research centers and universities who seek to better understand the effects of

Schedule I controlled substances. Additionally, as of October 4, 2011, the DEA has 3,983 active registrants who manufacture, research, and conduct chemical analysis with Schedule I controlled substances. I encourage the scientific community to continue their efforts to understand these and other drugs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF NOEL CUNNINGHAM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of Noel Cunningham, a restaurateur and philanthropist I had the pleasure of knowing for almost 20 years.

A resident of Denver, Noel was a true citizen of the world. Born in Ireland in 1949, he went to work at London's famed Savoy Hotel, achieving the rank of sous chef by age 23, before moving to California in the 1970's. In 1986 he moved to Denver and opened Strings, a bistro in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood that quickly became a community institution, hosting local celebrities, politicians, community and charity events and romantic date-nights.

While his professional biography will be defined by his extraordinary culinary talents, Noel's legacy will forever be based on the impact his philanthropic efforts had in Denver and across the world.

While in California he met Pat Miller, the noted restaurant critic known as the "Gabby Gourmet," and the two developed a lifelong friendship. Together, they started "Taste of the Nation," a nation-wide fundraiser that by 2010 had raised almost \$80 million to fight hunger and poverty across the United States.

With his wife Tammy, Noel founded The Cunningham Foundation, which included Quarters for Kids, to help educate children about local hunger and homelessness, and 4 Quarters for Kids, a project he named in reference to the four quarters it takes per day to provide an Ethiopian child with breakfast, lunch, a school uniform, and a teacher and books. Firm in his belief that philanthropy could strengthen a local community while enriching the lives of those across the globe, Noel targeted 4 Quarters primarily to local children, who held carwashes, concerts, pledge drives, and silent auctions to help create a better future for their Ethiopian peers.

Noel was active with the local Volunteers of America, and served on the board of the national nonprofit Share Our Strength. On week-day afternoons, it was not uncommon to drive by Strings and see Noel serving meals to the homeless in between the persistent lunch and dinner rushes. He was committed to building a better community, both locally and globally, and was not afraid to enlist the help of others to achieve his goals; he worked with local hospitals to provide life-saving treatments for Ethiopian children, and local businesses to ship supplies and other necessities to Africa. He founded "A Dinner of Unconditional Love"—a charity dinner to raise funds for Dr. Rick Hodes, an American Doctor living in Ethiopia whose mission is to help heal the poor—and had planned to expand the program across

the country so that he could raise the \$10 million Hodes needs to build his own hospital in Ethiopia.

Mr. Speaker, from the streets of Denver to the farms of Ethiopia, Noel Cunningham spent each and every day making a difference in the lives of those around him. Never content to settle, he pursued perfection in his restaurant and in his charitable endeavors, never once falling short in all the years I have known him. His life stands as proof that any individual can have an extraordinary impact, and his tragic passing leaves a monumental crater in the global community that spans from Denver to Ethiopia and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,052,444,423,722.81. We've added \$10,251,039,248,428.53 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION
FOR HENRY FORD HEALTH
SYSTEMS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to recognize the achievements of the Henry Ford Health System which, under the strong and dynamic leadership of its CEO, Nancy Schlichting, has earned a 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This award recognizes and encourages benchmark business practices; once reserved only for manufacturing and similar businesses, the Baldrige Award has been expanded to include health care organizations. As a recipient of the Baldrige award, Henry Ford Health System continues to serve as a role model for other companies across the country. The award puts a spotlight on the amazing work being done at the Henry Ford Health System to deliver top quality health care to its patients.

Henry Ford Health System has established itself as one of the Nation's premier health care providers. Henry Ford Health System uses innovative strategies and solutions which have been developed and implemented for the past decade, helping reduce unintended patient harm and establishing a "zero-defect, no-excuses" approach to health care outcomes. Over the years, the Henry Ford Health System has developed a reputation for delivering the best possible outcomes for patients. Because of this dedication to putting patients first, it is one of just 4 organizations around the Nation

to receive this award and the only one in Michigan.

With approximately \$5.8 billion in economic impact through payroll, operating expense and capital expenditures, Henry Ford Health System is not only an effective health care entity, but a major contributor to Michigan's economy. As a top 5 employer in Southeast Michigan, the Henry Ford Health System boasts an impressive 24,000 employees and is responsible for 37,500 additional jobs through direct and indirect employment at 7 hospitals and 33 ambulatory care sites. With more than 2,000 physicians system wide, it is also one of the Nation's largest non-university research programs.

Earning the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is no easy feat, with many companies each year following the Baldrige criteria as a model for proper organization and action. Henry Ford Health Systems now joins the ranks of companies such as Boeing Aerospace Support, Cadillac, and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company as innovators in their respective fields.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Henry Ford Health System and the 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award that it has earned. The Henry Ford Health System's achievements serve as a beacon to other businesses countrywide.

FARM DUST REGULATION
PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act.

This bipartisan legislation is necessary to ensure that farmers and ranchers will not be subjected to excessive regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA currently has the ability to tighten regulatory standards for dust under the Clean Air Act.

Should the EPA do so, farmers, ranchers, and rural economies could be devastated. On dry days, production could come to a standstill as producers focus on controlling dust rather than producing food.

After months of receiving questions and concerns from farmers, ranchers, and their Representatives in Congress, the Administrator of the EPA finally stated that her agency does not intend to change the current standards.

However, as long as EPA Administrator Jackson retains unchecked power to implement stricter standards, farmers and ranchers could be subject to oppressive regulations at any time.

A legislative fix is the only way to give farmers and ranchers the certainty they need to invest in the future without worrying about the influence of overzealous activists on EPA's regulations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.